REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 13, 19, 24, 30, 37, 45, and 51 have been amended. Claims 1 – 57 are pending

in this Application. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

The Applicants respectfully acknowledge the indication of allowability of claims 7-10,

14-17, 31-34, 38-41, 46-49, and 52-55 if presented in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1 – 6, 11 – 13, 18 – 30, 35 – 37, 42 – 45, 50 – 51, and 56 – 57 were rejected under

35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jardetzky et al (US Patent No. 6,392,989). This

rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant's exemplary claim 1 sets forth:

"A method for bridging network traffic in a networking device having a plurality
of communication interfaces, the method comprising:
    creating a bridged routing entry in a bridged routing table that is separate
from a main routing table, the main routing table for routing network traffic, the
bridged routing table for bridging the network traffic over both a first
communication interface and a second communication interface before requiring a
bridge between the predetermined pair of communication interfaces;
    subsequently determining that a bridge is needed between the first
communication interface and the second communication interface; and
    establishing the bridge between the first communication interface and the
second communication interface using the bridged routing entry."

The Applicants thus maintain a bridged routing table that is separate from a main routing table. The bridged routing table is used when a bridge is needed between communications interfaces. The Applicants have clarified that when two interfaces are bridged, network traffic is forwarded over both interfaces. (See Applicants' specification, Fig. 5, Bridged Routing Table for slots 1 and 2 includes Primary Routing Table for slot 1.)

Jardetzky discloses a method of re-routing packets in case of a switch failure. In Jardetzky, network traffic is re-routed from one interface to another. It is not bridged between two interfaces. (See Jardetzky Fig. 5, recovery mappings do not include primary mappings.) Jardetzky therefore fails to teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 1, wherein a method for bridging network traffic includes "creating a bridged routing entry in a bridged routing table that is separate from a main routing table, the main routing table for routing network traffic, the bridged routing table for bridging the network traffic over both a first communication interface and a second communication interface before requiring a bridge between the predetermined pair of communication interfaces". The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 – 6 and 11 – 12 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 13, 19, 24, 30, 37, 45, and 51 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1. The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claims 13, 18 – 30, 35 – 37, 42 – 45, 50 – 51, and 56 – 57 are in condition for allowance for the same reasons as set forth with regard to claim 1.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully
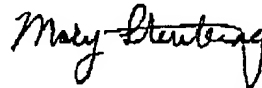
Serial No. 09/668,219   - 17 -   Art Unit:
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requested that the Examiner telephone Mary Steubing, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so

that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now

considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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